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FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 51.

STANDARD VARIETIES OF CHICKENS.

BY

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[REVISED OCTOBER, 1906, BY G. ARTHUR BELL, ASSISTANT ANIMAL HUSBAND-
MAN, BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.]



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,
Washington, D. C., November 15, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for publication the manuscript of a revision of Farmers' Bulletin No. 51, Standard Varieties of Chickens. The original bulletin was prepared in 1897 by George E. Howard, secretary of the National Poultry and Pigeon Association, and was slightly revised by him in 1899. There have since been several additions to the number of standard varieties of chickens, and some changes in names and classification, as recognized by the American Poultry Association in its American Standard of Perfection, thus necessitating considerable change in both text and illustrations of the bulletin. The work has therefore been thoroughly revised by G. Arthur Bell, assistant animal husbandman of this Bureau.

Respectfully,

A. M. FARRINGTON,
Acting Chief of Bureau.

HON. JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

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STANDARD VARIETIES OF CHICKENS.

CLASSIFICATION.

There are 104 standard and a large number of nonstandard varieties of chickens raised in this country. The standard varieties are divided as follows:

1. American class: Barred, White, and Buff Plymouth Rocks; Silver, Golden, White, Buff, Black, Partridge, Silver-penciled, and Columbian Wyandottes; Black and Mottled Javas; Rose-comb Dominiques; Single-comb and Rose-comb Rhode Island Reds, and Pea-comb Buckeyes.

2. Asiatic class: Light and Dark Brahmas; Buff, Partridge, White, and Black Cochins; Black and White Langshans.

3. Mediterranean class: Single-comb Brown, Rose-comb Brown, Single-comb White, Rose-comb White, Single-comb Buff, Rose-comb Buff, Single-comb Black, and Silver Duckwing Leghorns; Single-comb Black, Rose-comb Black, and Single-comb White Minorcas; White-faced Black Spanish; Blue Andalusians, and Mottled Anconas.

4. English class: White, Silver Gray, and Colored Dorkings; Rose-comb Redcaps; Single-comb Buff, Single-comb Black, and Single-comb White Orpingtons.

5. Polish class: White-crested Black, Bearded Golden, Bearded Silver, Bearded White, Buff-laced, Nonbearded Golden, Nonbearded Silver, and Nonbearded White Polish.

6. Dutch class: Golden-spangled, Silver-spangled, Golden-penciled, Silver-penciled, White, and Black Hamburgs.

7. French class: Mottled Houdans, Black Crevecœurs, and Black La Flèche.

8. Game and Game Bantam class: Black-breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, and Birchen Games; the same varieties for Game Bantams.

9. Oriental Game and Bantam class: Cornish and White Indians, Black Sumatras, Black-breasted Red Malays, and Black-breasted Red Malay Bantams.

10. Ornamental Bantam class: Golden and Silver Sebrights; Rose-comb White and Rose-comb Black; Booted White; Light and Dark

Brahmas; Buff, Partridge, White, and Black Cochins; Black-tailed, White, and Black Japanese; Bearded White, Buff-laced, and Non-bearded Polish.

11. Miscellaneous class: White Silkies, White Sultans, and Frizzles.

For practical purposes the above eleven classes may be grouped into four general classes, as follows:

1. The general purpose breeds: The American class, the Orpingtons, and the Houdans.

2. The meat or table breeds: The Asiatic class, the Dorkings, and the Indian Games.

3. The egg breeds: The Mediterranean class, the Dutch class, and the Redcaps.

4. The ornamental breeds: The Polish, the Crevecoeurs and La Flèche, the Game and Game Bantam class, the Oriental Game and Bantam class (except the Indians), the Ornamental Bantam class, and the miscellaneous class.

CLASS I—AMERICAN.

PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

The Plymouth Rock is the most popular of all breeds of poultry as a general-purpose fowl. The Barred variety is the best known, and its history dates back over a quarter of a century. Various breeds were used in its making, the belief being general that it originally came from a cross between the American Dominique and the Black Java. It has also been shown that the Light Brahma, Dark Brahma, and Pit Game have been used in its making.

The Barred Plymouth Rock (fig. 1) is of a grayish-white color, each feather regularly crossed by narrow, parallel bars of dark blue-black running in distinct lines throughout the entire length of the feather and showing on the down, or undercolor, of the feathers. The barring is somewhat smaller on the hackle and saddle feathers than on other portions of the body. A medium-sized bird with a broad, full breast, a rather long and broad body, medium-sized wings that fold gracefully, the wing fronts being well covered by the breast feathers and the wing points by the saddle feathers; a moderately large head, ornamented with an upright bright-red comb and wattles; a large bright-red or bay eye, and yellow beak, shanks, and toes places the picture before us.

For the farmer or market poultryman these fowls are favorites, being of medium size, well proportioned, with a deep full breast, making a most admirable bird for market purposes. They are

hardy, mature early, and make excellent broilers when from 8 to 12 weeks old. They are good layers the year round, and in winter lay exceptionally well. Their eggs are brown in color and average 8 to a pound. They are good sitters and excellent mothers.

The Barred Plymouth Rock, besides being a practical fowl, is also one of the most sought after by fanciers. No class is better filled at the average poultry show of the country. The graceful figure, upright carriage, and active nature endear it to all as a fancier's fowl. It requires much skill to breed for color, and two matings are generally used. An established rule for mating for cockerels is to use a standard-color male with medium-dark females, and for pullets to use medium-light male and standard-color females. The double

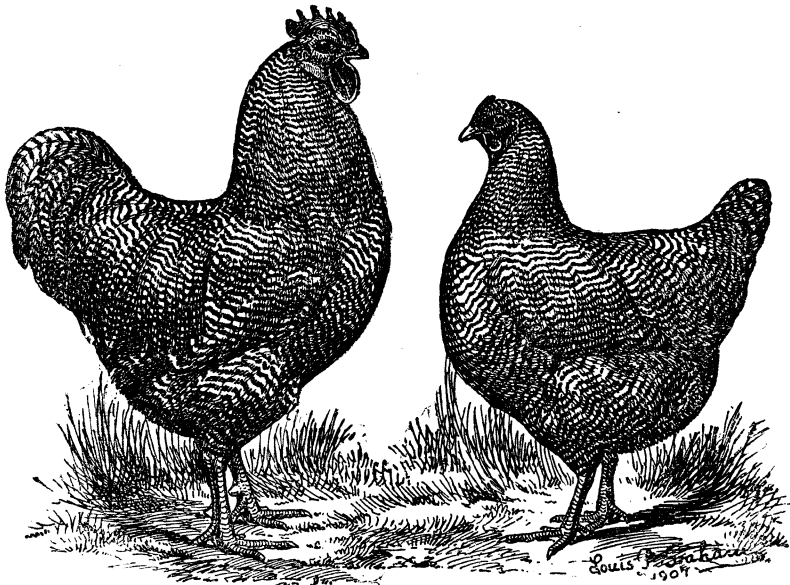


FIG. 1.—Pair of Barred Plymouth Rocks.

mating is resorted to by many, yet rare specimens have been produced from single matings.

The characteristics of this breed are noticeable in the other varieties of Plymouth Rocks, excepting that of color. The size, shape, general outlines, and qualities are the same in the other varieties as in the Barred. The White Plymouth Rock is pure white in plumage throughout, and the Buff variety is a clear golden buff, uniform in shade. The buff should extend to the undercolor as much as possible—the deeper the better.

The standard weight of cocks is $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

WYANDOTTES.

The Wyandotte (fig. 2) is another of the general-purpose fowls and is rated next to the Plymouth Rock. From the first it sprang into popular favor and has continued so to the present time. It came originally from the Dark Brahma, Silver-spangled Hamburg, and the Breda (a French fowl). Not a few authorities say that Wyandottes have Cochin blood in them, from the fact that their ancestors produced single combs and feathered shanks.

For general purposes the Wyandottes have proved a success, being of medium size, weighing on an average a pound less than the Plymouth Rocks, being hardy of constitution, and prolific layers. They are easily cared for and bear confinement well. For table

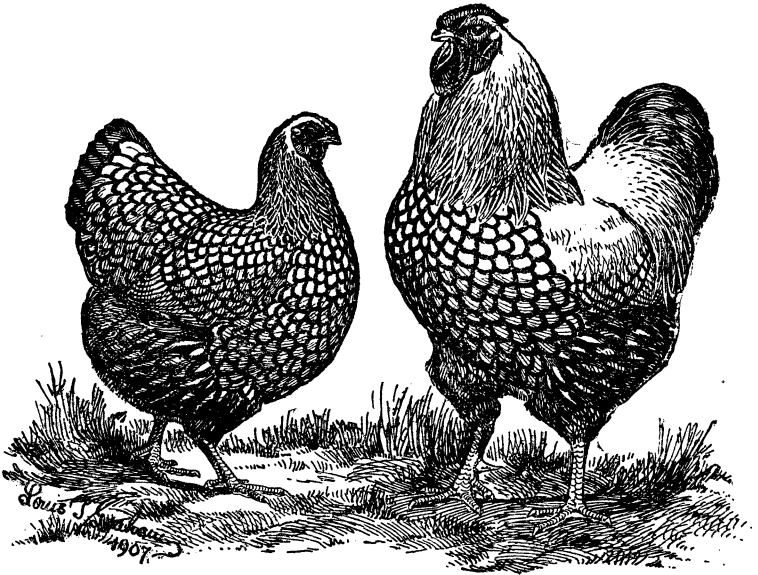


FIG. 2.—Pair of Silver Wyandottes.

purposes they are of superior worth; their flesh is sweet, juicy, and tender, and they make excellent broilers and roasters. As layers they are among the best, averaging about fourteen dozen eggs a year, and as winter layers they do well under ordinary circumstances.

There are eight varieties of the Wyandotte breed, and it is only a matter of opinion as to which is the best. The general characteristics are the same in all, the difference in color of plumage being the only distinguishing mark.

The Silver Wyandotte is of a silvery-white plumage, with regularly marked black lacing on the breast and a generous distribution of white and black throughout the entire body. The cock has a silver-white head, rose comb, silver hackle, with a black stripe down the center of each feather; silvery-white back; saddle same as hackle;

breast feathers black, with large white centers; tail black; wings half black and half white, or, rather, black edged with white; when the wing is folded there should be a well-defined bar across it; shanks and toes rich yellow, free from feathering. The hen of the silver variety is marked similarly to the male, excepting the back and wing, which are whiter in the male than in the female. The breast of the female is of much importance in breeding good birds; the lacing should be distinct, and the white centers of each feather free from black or brown penciling.

The Golden Wyandotte is marked like the Silver, excepting that the color is golden-bay and black instead of white and black. The White variety is, perhaps, the favorite from the fact that it is not so difficult to breed to feather, the plumage being pure white throughout.

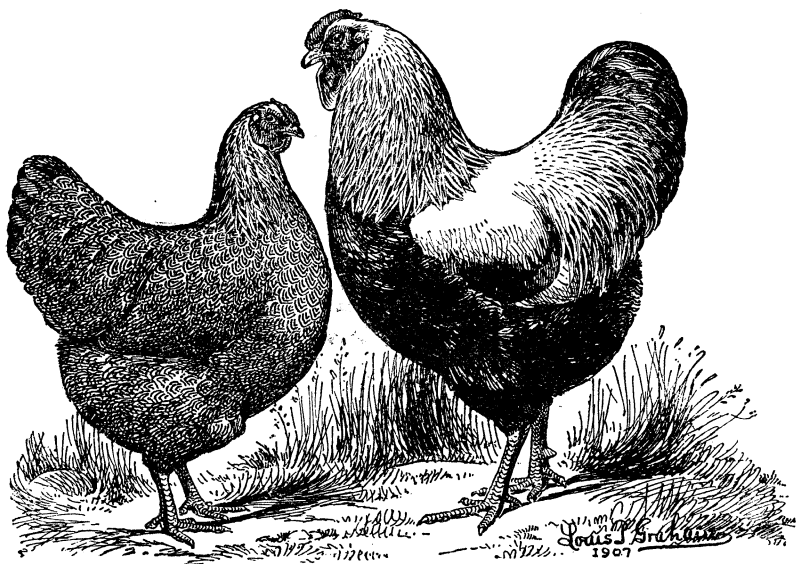


Fig. 3.—Pair of Silver-penciled Wyandottes.

It is for this reason the more practical fowl for the farmer or those who keep poultry for market. The Buff Wyandotte is in color a rich, golden buff, uniform in shade throughout. The Blacks are of a rich, glossy black, with greenish sheen, excepting breast, primaries, secondaries, tail, and fluff, which are pure black.

The Partridge and Silver-penciled (fig. 3) Wyandottes are two of the late additions to the standard varieties, the former having been admitted in 1901 and the latter in 1902. The color of the plumage of the Partridge is similar to that of the Partridge Cochins, and the color of the plumage of the Silver-penciled is similar to that of the Dark Brahma.

The Columbian Wyandotte is the latest addition to the standard varieties of this breed. In color and markings it is like the Light

Brahma, which, combined with the true Wyandotte shape, presents a very beautiful bird. The color of the beak is horn, shading to yellow at the point, and the color of the shanks and toes is yellow.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

JAVAS.

This breed is one of the oldest of the American class, and at one time was considered the most profitable of all breeds. At present Javas are not raised extensively; the more modern or newer breeds have seemingly supplanted them in popularity. There is no reason

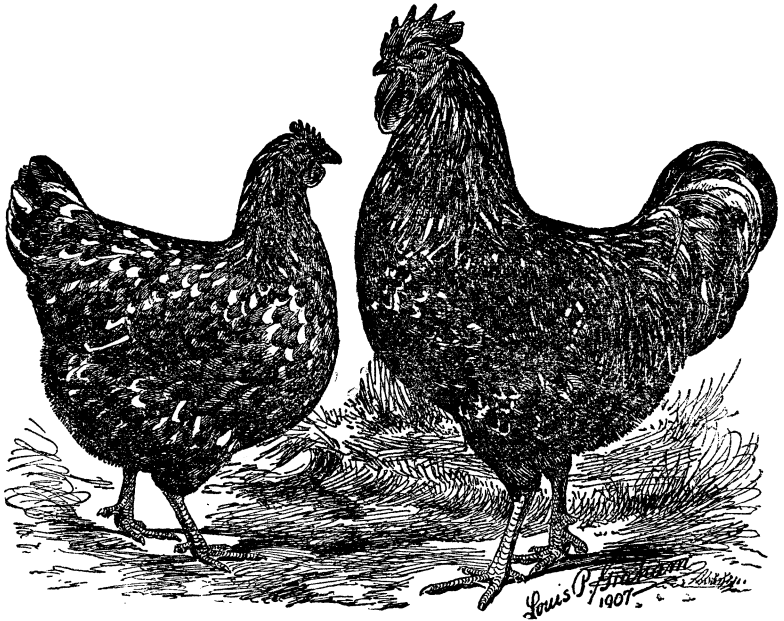


FIG. 4.—Pair of Mottled Javas.

why this should be so, as they are useful and good general-purpose fowls. In size they are about like the Plymouth Rocks, but differ in general symmetry and appearance. They are good layers and do well in winter, and for table purposes they are quite satisfactory. They mature early, are good sitters and mothers, and are easily kept in confinement.

There are two varieties of Javas, the Black and the Mottled. The Black is more generally seen than the Mottled. The plumage of the Blacks is glossy black throughout; the Mottled (fig. 4) is of broken black and white throughout, with black predominating. The Java has a small single comb, standing upright on the head in both male and female. The shanks and toes are free from feathers, black in

color, with the bottom of the feet yellow in the Black Java, while the color of the shanks and toes of the Mottled variety should be broken leaden blue and yellow.

The standard weight of cocks is $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

DOMINIKES.

Similarity in plumage of the American Dominique and Barred Plymouth Rock has been the cause of the former's popularity. The color is grayish white, each feather regularly crossed with parallel bars of dark blue-black, producing the effect of a bluish-tinged plumage, the color being the same throughout. They have rose combs, in both male and female, and bright-yellow legs. Those who are partial to their color of plumage will find the Dominiques good birds to keep. They are good layers, are hardy, mature early, and dress well for the table.

The standard weight of cocks is 8 pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

RHODE ISLAND REDS.

This is one of the new standard breeds which has gained prominence as a general-purpose fowl. They are of medium size, hardy,

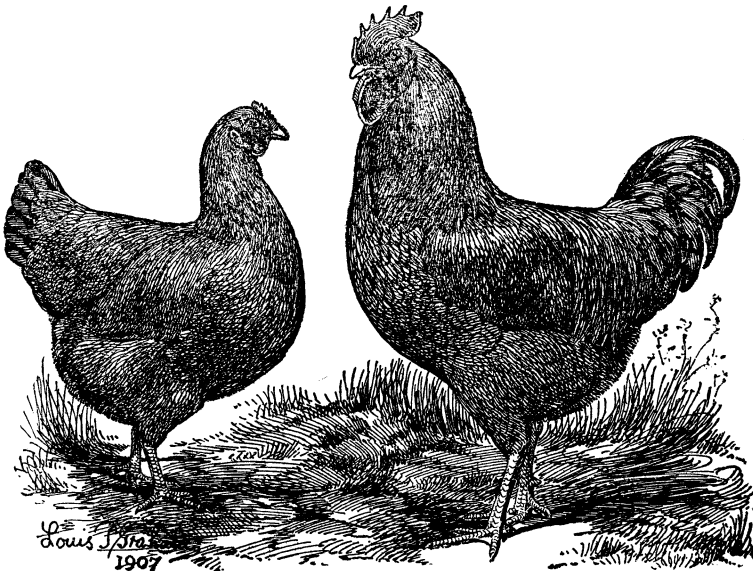


FIG. 5.—Pair of Single-comb Rhode Island Reds.

mature early, lay brown-shelled eggs, and are good sitters and mothers. There are two varieties of this breed, the Single-comb (fig. 5) and the Rose-comb, the only difference being in the shape of the comb.

The color of the plumage of the male should be a rich, brilliant red, except in the wings and tail, portions of which should be black. A harmonious blending of red is desirable, but in most specimens the color is accentuated on the wing bows and back. The plumage of the female should be somewhat lighter in color than that of the male. Portions of the hackle, wings, and tail are black in color. The beak of both male and female should be reddish horn, the shanks yellow or reddish horn, and the toes reddish horn in color.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

BUCKEYES.

This breed was originated by Mrs. Metcalf, of Ohio, and was produced by crosses of Plymouth Rocks, Buff Cochins, Black-breasted Red and Indian Games. In shape the Buckeyes resemble somewhat the Indian Games, but have a more fluffy plumage. In color they should be a dark, lustrous red, never buff or brick color. The unexposed flight feathers and the main tail feathers may be partially black. The color of the beak, shanks, and toes of the male is yellow, shaded with red horn, and of the female yellow. Both the male and the female should have a small pea comb.

The standard weight of cocks is 9 pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

CLASS II—ASIATIC.

BRAHMAS.

The leading variety of the Asiatic class is the Light Brahma (fig. 6). This fowl has a history that would fill many pages were it recorded. These are the fowls which caused the "hen fever" of the fifties, about which so much has been written in later years. Their early history is a matter of controversy, the best authorities differing as to their origin.

They were first known as "Brahma Pootras," "Gray Shanghais," "Chittagongs," "Cochin Chinas," and what not. The early breeder named them according to his fancy for high-sounding and sensational names in order to sell his stock. Fabulous prices were paid for them when the craze for fine poultry was at its height in the early days of the last half of the nineteenth century. They have stood high in popular favor since then without abatement. The vast number of breeders who are raising them fully attest their worth to the industry as a practical bird. The Brahma is unlike other breeds, and it should not be confounded in shape with the Cochin. In shape the body of the Brahma is rather long and deep, with full, broad, and round breast,

carried well forward. The fulness is typical of the Brahma and is characteristic of prolific birds.

In plumage the Light Brahma male is white and black, white largely predominating. Any color but white and black is a fault in the standard-bred bird. The hackle is white with a black stripe extending down the center of each feather and tapering to a point near the extremity. The tail feathers are black, and the sickle feathers are glossy greenish black. The shanks are well feathered, with the feathering extending down the middle toe. The toe feathering may be white, or white sprinkled with black. A small pea comb, a broad crown projecting over the eyes, bright-red face, wattles, and ear lobes are essential to a good head. The shanks and toes are bright yellow.

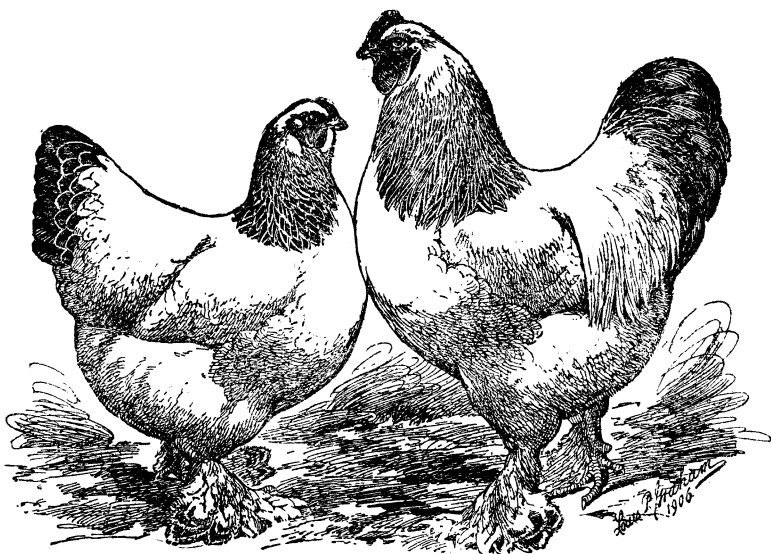


FIG. 6.—Pair of Light Brahmas.

The Brahma female is much like the male in head qualities, having a broad crown, projecting well over the eyes, and a small pea comb. The head is white; hackle, white striped with black, as in the male; tail, black, excepting the two highest main tail feathers, which may be edged with white; tail coverts—one or more rows, distinctly covering a part of both sides of the main tail, two rows being preferable—are black, edged with white.

The Light Brahmas are valuable birds for the farm. They have always been made to pay for their keep and have seldom been set aside by any who have bred them. They are the largest of domestic poultry and do as well in confinement in small runs as on free range. As layers they will average from 12 to 13 dozen eggs a year, and they lay exceptionally well in winter. Their eggs are large, about 7 to

a pound, of a rich brown color and excellent flavor. For table purposes the birds are good; they do not mature as early as do the varieties of the American class, yet they are hardy, and can be raised with as much ease as any of the earlier maturing varieties. As sitters and mothers they are fair.

The Dark Brahmas are not so popular as the Light, the difficulty being in breeding them true to feather. Their delicately marked plumage is extremely pretty when they are bred to standard requirement, but if not so bred it becomes most disagreeable and unsatisfactory to the breeder. The head and neck of a Dark Brahma male are similar to those of the Light, the head being white and the hackle rather more striped; the neck other than hackle should be black. The back is silvery white. The saddle feathers are, like the hackle, silvery white, striped with black, which should be distinct. As the feathers approach the tail the stripes become broader till they merge into the tail coverts, which are rich, glossy green-black. The tail is pure black, with green gloss. The wing coverts are greenish black, forming a distinct black bar across the middle of the wings, while the ends of the secondaries have a large black spot on the end, making the top edges of the wing appear almost black. The remainder of the secondaries are white on the lower half and black on the upper. The flights are all black except a narrow fringe of white on the lower edge. The breast is black; the thighs are black, and fluff either black or black very slightly mottled with white. The shank feathering should be black or black mottled with white, black preferred. The shanks and toes are yellow.

The color of females is a white ground, closely penciled with dark steel gray, producing a beautiful effect, silver gray in appearance. There should be no show of pure white in the plumage except in the margins of the hackles. Unless extreme care is taken in mating, the hens are likely to have a dingy color, and the pullets are apt to have necks almost white for some distance down. These light-necked birds are generally unsatisfactory for breeding, but the evil may be remedied by choosing birds for breeding whose heads are distinctly marked. The shape and character of the markings of the Dark Brahma pullets also vary. They should be medium sized, so that the pencilings can be clearly discerned at a short distance. A great point in regard to color and marking in Brahma pullets is that it should be uniform over the body, and the hackles should be silvery white, heavily striped with rich black, and the shank feathering penciled same as body.

For practical purposes the Dark Brahmas are not to be commended as highly as the Light Brahmas. The close breeding for points in feathers is likely to interfere with their productiveness, yet with proper attention and care they can be bred profitably as well as for beauty.

The standard weight of Light Brahma cocks is 12 pounds; hens, 9½ pounds; cockerels, 10 pounds; pullets, 8 pounds. The standard weight of Dark Brahma cocks is 11 pounds; hens, 8½ pounds; cockerels, 9 pounds; pullets, 7 pounds.

COCHINS.

The four varieties of Cochins are popular with breeders. They are second to the Brahmas in the meat breeds, weighing but a pound lighter than the Light Brahma. Old and experienced breeders of Cochins are pronounced in praise of their qualities as profitable fowls. They are hardy, fair winter layers of rich, brown, medium-sized eggs, and fairly good table fowls. The chicks grow well and develop rapidly under proper care.

The Buff variety is the most generally bred; their color tone offers an attraction to fanciers that is hard to resist. Both male and female are of a rich golden buff, uniform in shade throughout, under-color same as surface color, but of lighter shade and should extend

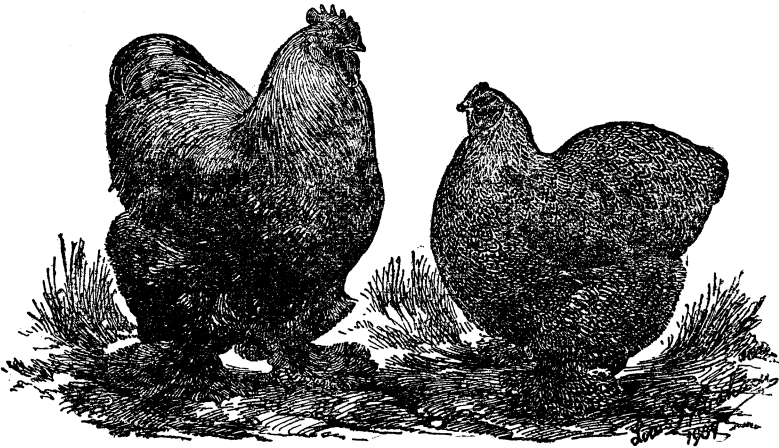


FIG. 7.—Pair of Partridge Cochins.

to the skin. In breeding, select females as near as possible to the desired shade of buff, as free from dark or white in wing and tail, and of as even a color as can be. To such females mate a cock of deeper shade. This mating will produce good results in cockerels and pullets. The heavy leg and toe feathering so characteristic of the breed should have constant care and attention. While the feathering should be abundant, all semblance to vulture hock, or stiff feathering, should be avoided.

The Partridge Cochin (fig. 7) is a beautiful fowl, yet difficult to breed, and in plumage is much after the pattern of the Dark Brahma, the color being red and brown instead of the steel-gray

effect of the latter. The head of the male is bright red in color; the hackle, bright red or dark orange, with a distinct black stripe down the center of each feather; saddle feathers, same as hackle; breast and body, rich deep black; wing bows, red; primaries, black on inside web, with a bay edging on the outside web; secondaries, black on the inside web and rich bay on the outside web, terminating with greenish black at the end of each feather; wing coverts greenish black, forming a well-defined bar of that color across the wing when folded; tail, black; sickles, coverts, and lesser coverts, glossy greenish black—the latter may be edged with red; thighs, black; shanks, yellow, and well covered with black or brownish black feathers, the middle toes being also well feathered.

The female is the prettier of the two. Her head is small and of a rich brown plumage, with a stout, well-curved beak, yellow or horn in color. Her eyes are bay and mild in expression. The head is ornamented with a small single comb, bright red in color, and set perfectly straight upon the head. The wattles are small, well rounded, and fine in texture; the ear lobes are well developed and are also fine in texture. The neck is neatly curved, with abundant hackle flowing well over the shoulders. The plumage is bright red or dark orange-red with a broad black stripe down the middle of each feather. The black stripe in a good feather should run to a point near the end of the feather. The Standard permits a slight penciling of the black stripe. A good back and cushion are desirable. Her back should be broad, the broader the better, and the cushion should rise with a gentle convex curve and partially cover the tail. The plumage of back and cushion is mahogany-red in color. Each feather is penciled with brown or black; the outlines of the penciling conform to the shape of the feather. The breast is one of the most important points of a good hen and should be broad and massive. The plumage is of the same mahogany-red color as the back. The penciling on the breast is perhaps a little more distinct and open than on the back; the outlines of the penciling should be sharp and conform to the shape of the feather. The body is broad and deep behind and of the same plumage as the breast. The fluff is very abundant, covering the posterior portion of the bird and standing out about the thighs. Wings are small and the primaries fold closely under the secondaries; the fronts are covered by the breast feathers and the points are concealed between the cushion and thigh plumage. The primaries are very dark brown or blackish brown in color; the inner web of the secondaries is a blackish brown and the outer web is a blackish brown penciled with a lighter brown. The coverts are similar in color and penciling to the plumage of the breast. The tail is broad and short, is carried

rather low, and is partly concealed by the cushion. In color it is black, except the two main tail feathers, which are penciled. The tail coverts are penciled same as breast and body. Thighs are well covered with soft feathers; the feathers on the lower part curve inward around the hock and hide the joint on the outside. The feathering of the thighs is of the same shade and color as that of the body. The shanks are short and yellow and heavily covered with feathers of the same color as the thighs. The toes are well spread and yellow, the outer and middle toes being feathered throughout their entire length.

Black Cochins are much more easily raised than either of the varieties thus far described. Being of one color, the care bestowed in breeding particolored or penciled birds is not necessary, and the time may be spent in furthering their general utility in egg production. A solid-color bird is the more practical bird for the farmer and market poulterer. The Black Cochin is of a rich glossy black plumage throughout.

The White Cochin is pure white in plumage.

The standard weight of Cochin cocks is 11 pounds; hens, 8½ pounds; cockerels, 9 pounds; pullets, 7 pounds.

LANGSHANS.

Langshans are the smallest and most active of the Asiatic class. They are practical in more senses than one, and their fair laying and other excellent qualities make them profitable for the farmer and market poultryman. They constitute one of the oldest breeds of poultry and have always been held in popular esteem. The shape of the Langshan is distinct from that of the Brahma or Cochin and should not be confused with either of the last-named breeds. Figure 8 shows the accepted contour of the Langshans, and a comparison with the birds in figures 6 and 7 shows at a glance the characteristics of the Langshan as compared with the other Asiatics. Langshans have white flesh and dark shanks, while the others have yellow skin and yellow shanks. The quality of the flesh of the Langshans is excellent, being fine-grained, tender, and nicely flavored. As layers they rank with the Brahma, averaging from 12 to 13 dozen eggs a year and as winter layers they are to be recommended. The chicks are hardy and mature early. Langshans are good sitters and mothers, being of gentle disposition; they are easily kept, either in confinement or on free range. Being excellent foragers, they are ideal fowls for the farm and will gather during the year a considerable proportion of their food.

The Langshan is a stylish, medium-sized bird, not overgrown or gawky in appearance, of active nature, and lively disposition. Many

confound the Black Langshan with the Black Cochin. This need not be, as the following comparison between the two varieties shows: The Black Cochin is square in shape, with heavy-looking neck and legs, plenty of fluff and leg feathering, cushion rising from middle of back to tail; tail short and almost concealed by cushion; neck, breast, cushion, and tail all represented by convex lines. The Langshan head is small for the size of the body and the comb is rather large, well up in front, and arch shaped; the Cochin head is larger than that of the Langshan and not so arched over the eye; the comb is smaller, low in front, and almost straight on top of serrations. The back of the Langshan is concave, that of the Cochin is slightly con-

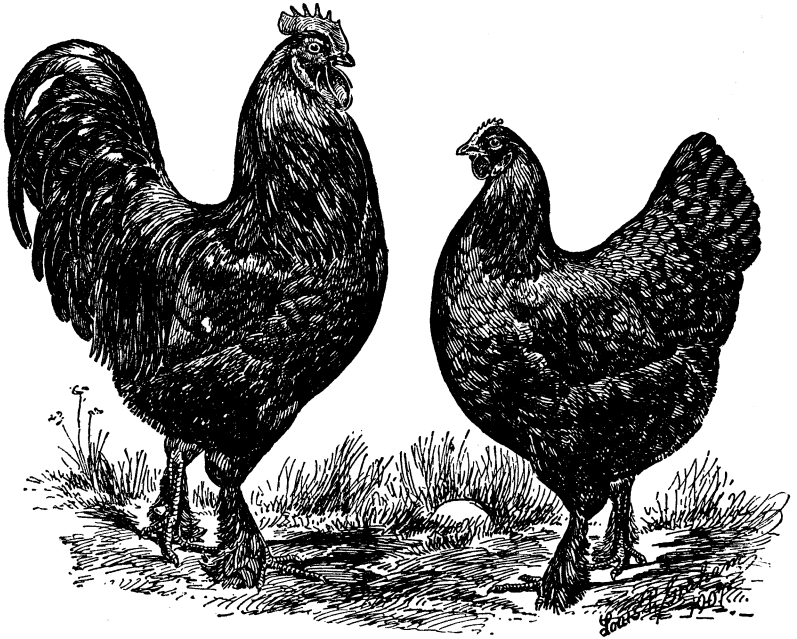


FIG. 8.—Pair of Black Langshans.

vex, and the Cochin has a large convex cushion. The Langshan fluff is moderate and close; that of the Cochin is extremely full and loose. The wings of the Langshan are of medium size, quite prominent at the shoulders; the Cochin's wings are smaller and almost hidden by the fluffy plumage of the cushion and the fluff. The Langshan's legs are medium in length, the toes are long and tapering, and the color of the shank is bluish black showing pink between scales; the Cochin's legs are shorter and stouter, with larger bone; the toes are shorter and stouter, and the color of the shanks is black or yellowish black.

There are two varieties of Langshans, the Black and the White. In the Black the plumage of neck, back, saddle, and sickles is a glossy

metallic black with greenish sheen; the breast, primaries, secondaries, tail, fluff, shank, and toe feathers are black. The undercolor is black or dark slate. The White Langshan is pure white throughout.

The standard weight of cocks for both varieties is 10 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, 6 pounds.

CLASS III—MEDITERRANEAN.

LEGHORNS.

Leghorns are the best known of the egg-producing varieties, or Mediterranean class. They are the premiers in laying and the standard by which the prolificness of other breeds is judged. As to the origin of the Leghorns there are differences of opinion, and there is but little information to be found anywhere concerning their early history. It is generally conceded that a race of fowls bearing a close resemblance in many respects to the Leghorn has existed in Italy and other parts of the continent of Europe for a long period. That this race has been widely disseminated admits also of little doubt, inasmuch as at the present day it is known in Denmark and other countries as the Italian. There seems to be good ground for the statement that Leghorns were first introduced into America from Italy. The story goes that as early as 1834 a vessel from Leghorn brought to this country as a part of its cargo a small shipment of fowls, which were at once named "Leghorns." They immediately became popular, their prolific laying and nonsitting qualities being recognized at this early date.

White and Brown Leghorns were the first varieties known. Modern breeders are responsible for some of the subvarieties of the breed; and, in point of color at least, exhibition birds of to-day, even of the older varieties, vary considerably from those seen at the present time in Italy.

The Leghorn fowl holds the same place among poultry that the Jersey holds among cattle. The question of profit in poultry has been decided in favor of the egg-producing breeds. Leghorns are lively, active, and of a restless disposition, the best of foragers, and will pick up a good part of their living during the year. They are light eaters, and the cost of raising them to maturity is about one-half that of the Asiatic varieties. They mature early and feather quickly; the pullets often begin laying when $4\frac{1}{2}$ months old, and cockerels crow at a much younger age. They are the best of layers, averaging between 150 and 200 eggs a year. Their eggs are pure white in color and weigh about 10 to the pound. As table fowls they are fairly good; by many they are considered excellent; the only thing that can be said against them is that they are small in size.

Altogether, they are one of the most profitable breeds of poultry that can be kept on the farm, and the cheapness of their keeping will allow the raising of two Leghorns for the cost of one Asiatic. They must be dryly housed in winter to lay well and to protect their pendulous wattles from frostbite.

In shape a Leghorn cock should be graceful, with body of medium length, broad at the shoulders, and tapering toward the tail. The body should be well balanced on a fair length of shank and thigh, the length of leg giving the bird its sprightly and proud carriage. Closeness of feathering adds to the general shape. The breast should be full, beautifully curved, rather prominent, and carried well forward; neck, long and well arched; back, of medium length, with saddle rising in a sharp, concave sweep to the tail; tail, large, full, carried at an angle of 45° from the horizontal; the full, flowing tail, and long, well-curved sickles are characteristics of the bird that are much desired. The wing is long, well folded, and tightly carried. The hackle and saddle feathers are long and abundant, flowing well over the shoulder and saddle. The shanks are free from feathers. The head is the prettiest portion of the bird, being short and deep, with full, bright-red eyes, and bright-red face. The comb, if single, should be of medium size, perfectly straight and upright upon the head, free from side sprigs, deeply serrated with five points, and bright red. The comb should extend well back over the head, with no tendency to follow the shape of the neck. Ear lobes should be white or creamy white.

The Leghorn hen in many respects resembles the cock, excepting carriage of comb and sexual differences. In shape and carriage the hen is even more graceful and sprightly than the cock, very close in feather, and rather small in body. Her breast is full, very round, and carried high; legs fairly long, and shanks thin; tail carried at an angle of 40° from the horizontal. Her comb is the marvel of her beauty; in the single-comb varieties it falls gracefully to one side, but not in a limp manner nor so as to obscure the sight. Legs, comb, and face are the same color as in the male, but the ear lobe is much smaller.

There are eight standard varieties of Leghorns: The Single-comb and Rose-comb Brown, Single-comb and Rose-comb White, Single-comb and Rose-comb Buff, Single-comb Black, and Silver Duck-wing.

The Brown Leghorns (fig. 9) are one of the prettiest of the Leghorn varieties, but they are the most difficult of all to breed to feather. They have merited the confidence of poultry lovers for a long time; their hardy constitutions have withstood rough usage, and promiscuous interbreeding has not effaced their characteristics. They

are a fixed variety, and their merits are noticeable from the newly hatched chick to the oldest specimen.

In mating Brown Leghorns the most successful breeders use a double mating, one pen for each sex. Fine birds, both cockerels and pullets, can be bred from the same pen by using slightly different types of females. The same male often will breed the finest of both exhibition cockerels and pullets, but it is a rare case to have a female breed both sexes of a remarkable quality. When two pens are used, at the head of the pen mated to produce the cockerels place a fully developed cock with no serious fault, of standard color, especially strong in comb, lobe, hackle, and saddle, a dark undercolor being preferred. To him mate hens of a shade darker than standard, with small, evenly serrated, standing combs; a trifle brick color on wings

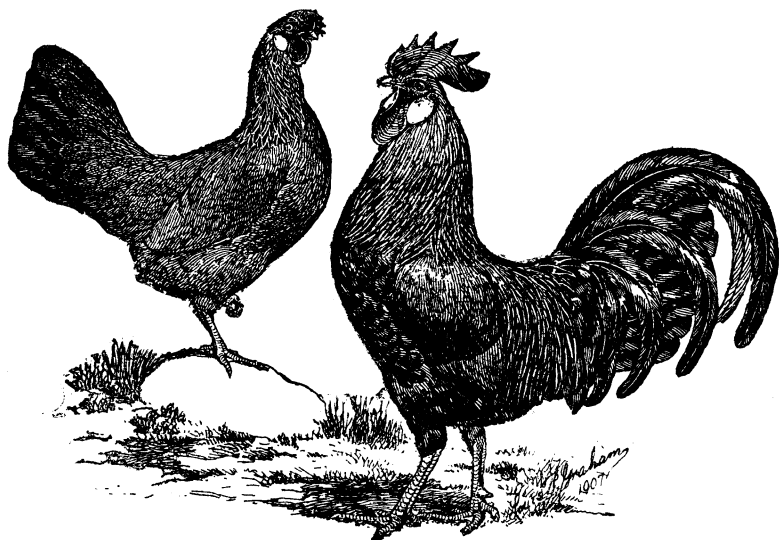


FIG. 9.—Pair of Single-comb Brown Leghorns.

is no objection, as it will give a brighter color on wing bows of the cockerels. Shafting on the back will also help the black stripe in the saddles. The pullets raised from this pen will be too dark for exhibition, but they will be a great help in breeding cockerels the next season. The male at the head of the pen mated to produce the pullets should be from a pullet strain, and bred directly from an exhibition hen. His color should be a trifle light; comb large, but evenly serrated, if thin near the top all the better; hackle well striped, but no striping in saddle; undercolor of hackle and saddle may be light gray or white; wing bows should show more purple than red, as too much red shows signs of being bred from a "bricky" hen. To him mate exhibition females having light brown penciled with

darker brown on back and wings, all one shade, free from shafting on back or brick color on wings. These hens should have the large comb, lying over, but firm and strong on the head, so it does not lie close to the eye and face. The cockerels raised from this mating are the birds to use for breeding females the next year. By breeding Brown Leghorns in this manner we have two distinct lines of blood, which should never be crossed.

The White Leghorn is the most generally bred of the Leghorn varieties. It is, no doubt, the most advantageous to breed for profit, and the easiest to raise on the farm. Being of one color in plumage, these birds are more successfully raised and cared for than the part-colored varieties. Their plumage is pure white throughout, and feathers other than white will disqualify them. It has been a matter of much speculation as to which variety of Leghorns is most prolific in egg production. This is a difficult question to adjust properly to the satisfaction of the specialty breeders, but from a conservative standpoint it is generally considered that the Whites have slightly the advantage over the others. Phenomenal individual egg records have been made by almost all varieties, but the foregoing opinion is based upon the general results obtained from various sources.

The Buff Leghorn is a beautiful bird and one that will win its way wherever bred. Buff-colored birds have many admirers, and those who have bred them are pronounced in praise of their qualities. Besides having the general characteristics of the Leghorn type, the Buff Leghorn cock has a plumage of an even shade of rich golden buff throughout. The undercolor is of a slightly lighter shade, but even in color throughout. White and black feathers in plumage are objectionable. The hen is of the same color as the cock.

The Black Leghorn is a popular bird and a favorite with those who are partial to its color of plumage. The Black Leghorn is mistaken by many for the Black Minorca, but is quite different in type. The Minorca is larger in size, has a longer body, larger comb, and dark slate or nearly black shanks and toes. The plumage of the Black Leghorn is a rich glossy black throughout. The comb, face, and wattles are bright red, the ear lobes white, and the shanks yellow or yellowish black.

Silver Duckwing Leghorns are not generally bred in this country, though they are frequently seen in the showrooms. They are considered as profitable as any of the other Leghorn varieties, and in point of beauty they are very interesting and fascinating. The hackle feathers of a Silver Duckwing Leghorn cock are pure silvery white, without the slightest straw or creamy tinge, with a narrow black stripe along the center of the lower hackle feathers; back, saddle, and wing bow, silvery white; breast, under parts, wing bar, and tail,

lustrous black. The Silver Duckwing Leghorn hen has a silvery gray hackle, with a narrow black stripe through the center of each feather. The breast is light salmon, shading off to gray toward the sides; the body color, when viewed at a short distance, should appear gray, with a faint bluish tint all over. A tendency to ruddy gray, either in ground color or penciling, is objectionable. The tail is black, except the two upper feathers, which are light gray. The penciling or markings are irregular or wavy.

The only distinguishing difference between the single-comb and rose-comb varieties is in the comb. The Rose-comb Leghorns have a small rose comb, square in front, firm and even upon the head, tapering evenly from front to rear, without inclining to one side, the top comparatively flat and covered with small points, terminating in a well-developed spike in the rear. There is no standard weight given for Leghorns.

MINORCAS.

The Minorcas belong to the Mediterranean class, and they are placed next to the Leghorns in laying qualities. They are in appearance very similar to the Leghorns. Their general outline is, in fact, that of the latter, but with more length of body and heavier in mold. The origin of the Minorcas, like that of so many others of our profitable poultry, is much in doubt. Some persons are of the opinion that they originally came from Minorca, one of the Balearic Isles, in the Mediterranean Sea, while others contend that they are a variety of the Black Spanish. Be that as it may, they are one of the most profitable breeds of poultry for the farm.

The Minorcas are good for table purposes, the flesh being white or light colored and fine grained. Their chief advantage is their egg production. They are nonsitters and year-round layers. As winter layers they are exceptionally good when kept under fairly favorable circumstances. While the Leghorn surpasses them in the number of eggs laid, the Minorca's eggs are larger and equal the output in bulk. Their eggs are white and average 8 to the pound. They lay from 14 to 15 dozen a year. Being of an active, restless disposition they keep in splendid condition and make good foragers. For suburban poultry keeping they are very useful birds, and net good results to the keeper. They are hardy, easily raised, and mature quickly.

The Minorca fowl (fig. 10) is large in outline, well bodied, stands well up on its legs, has a broad chest, and a long, broad back, with tail carried at an angle of 40° from the horizontal. The body of the Minorca male is long, broad, deep, tapering from front to rear. Thighs are stout; shanks, long, stout in bone, and in color dark slate or nearly black in the black varieties, and white or pinkish

white in the white variety. The comb of the Minorca is larger and more bulky than that of the Leghorn. The wattles are thin and pendulous, corresponding with the size of the comb; the ear lobes are pure white. The female is in body of the same general appearance as the male, rather long, broad, and deep. Her comb is perceptibly larger than that of the Leghorn female. Black Minorcas are in plumage a rich, glossy, greenish black throughout, and gray tips are considered serious defects. The White Minorca is not quite as popular as the Black. The standard qualifications as to shape are the same for the two; in color the white variety must be pure white throughout, feathers other than white disqualifying. The comb, face, and wattles are bright red, the face being free from white; the eyes are dark hazel in the Black variety and red in the White variety.

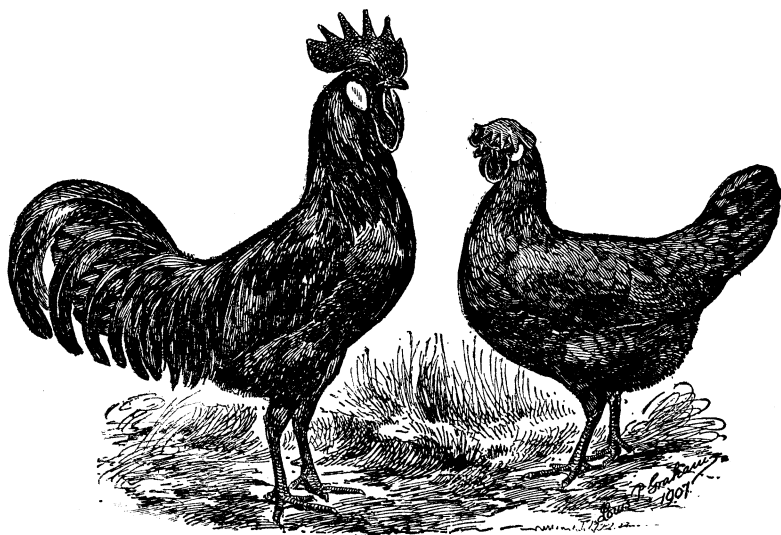


FIG. 10.—Pair of Single-comb Black Minorcas.

Before concluding in regard to Minorcas it is worthy of note that the latest acquisition to the breed is the Rose-comb Black Minorca, which is now a standard variety. The only objection that has ever been raised against the varieties of the Mediterranean class is their susceptibility to frostbite of the comb. Their combs are so large that continued cold or exposure is sure to result in this injury. To obviate this one defect, if it may be so termed, in this valuable class of birds has been the purpose of breeders in producing a bird that possesses the other qualifications, but with a low rose comb. The comb of the Rose-comb Black Minorca male should be rose, square in front, and set close and even on the head. The head of the female is similar to that of the male.

The standard weight of Single-comb Black Minorca cocks is 9 pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and pullets $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The standard weight of Rose-comb Black and Single-comb White Minorca cocks is 8 pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

BLACK SPANISH.

The Black Spanish fowls (fig. 11) constitute one of the oldest varieties of domestic poultry. Their name has been identified with the industry for hundreds of years, and their practical worth on the farm has long been recognized. Their haughty bearing, large red comb and wattles, and the white face and lobes peculiar to the breed, contrasting with their glossy black plumage, render them most striking birds.

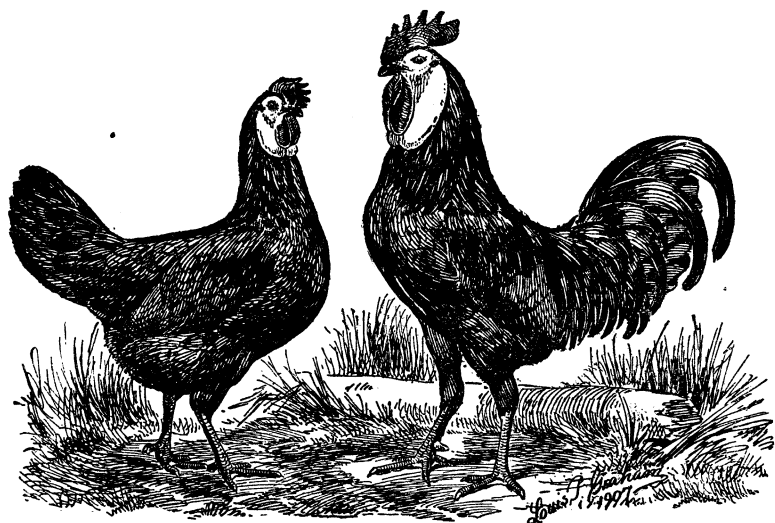


FIG. 11.—Pair of White-faced Black Spanish.

White-faced Black Spanish have long been favorably known for their exceptionally fine laying qualities. The pullets are early layers, averaging 150 to 180 eggs a year; the hens begin somewhat later, after molting, but compensate for any loss in number by the increased size of the eggs. Hens and pullets alike are well above the average for winter laying. Their eggs are large and white and of good flavor. The white face is a distinguishing feature and should be long, smooth, free from wrinkles, rising well over the eyes in an arched form, extending toward the back of the head and to the base of the beak, covering the cheeks and joining the wattles and ear lobes; the greater the extent of surface the better. It should be pure white in color. The color of plumage throughout is rich greenish

black, and any gray is considered a serious defect. The shanks and toes are blue or dark leaden blue. The comb is single and bright red in color. The wattles of males are bright red, except the inside of the upper part, which is white; and of females bright red; the ear lobes are pure white.

The standard weight of Black Spanish cocks is 8 pounds; hens, 6½ pounds; cockerels, 6½ pounds; pullets, 5½ pounds.

ANDALUSIANS.

The Andalusian (fig. 12) is one of the prettiest of the feathered race, being of a beautiful light and dark blue plumage. It is called

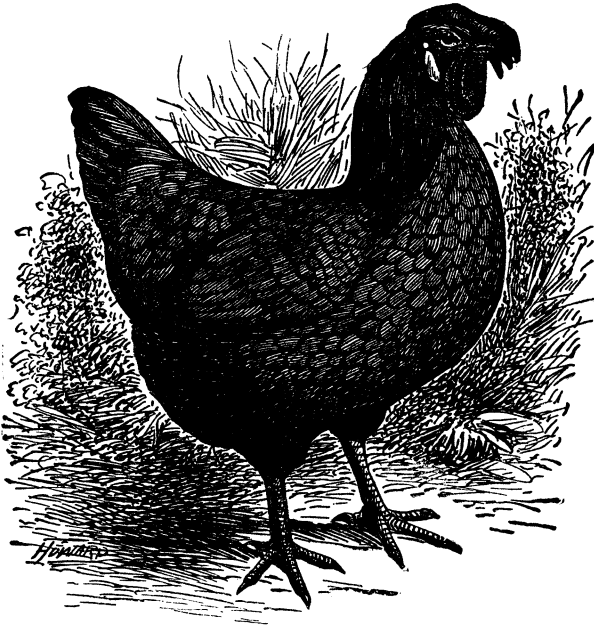


FIG. 12.—Blue Andalusian hen.

the Blue Andalusian, and is the only variety of its breed. It is not as popular in this country as it should be, owing to the sentiment against white skin and blue shanks. English and French poultrymen prefer these qualities in a bird, and with them it is very popular. The hens are nonsitters and splendid layers of large white eggs, nearly equaling in size those of the Minorcas. The chicks are hardy and mature early, and the pullets begin laying when five or six months old.

For farm purposes the Andalusians rank with the Leghorns and the Minorcas, the preference being only in the color of their plumage. For fancy purposes they are an ideal bird on account of their beauty.

The hackle and saddle feathers are dark blue, approaching black; breast a lighter shade of blue, each feather having a well-defined lacing, of a darker shade; body and fluff similar in color to breast; primaries, slaty blue; secondaries and wing coverts, similar in color to breast; wing bows, darker blue, approaching black; tail and sickle feathers, dark blue, approaching black; shanks and toes, blue or leaden blue.

The standard weight of cocks is 6 pounds; hens, 5 pounds; cockerels, 5 pounds; pullets, 4 pounds.

ANCONAS.

The Mottled Anconas are one of the least common varieties of the Mediterranean class. They are hardy, quick to mature, and prolific layers of white-shelled eggs.

In shape Anconas should be the same as Leghorns. The color of the plumage should be a beetle-green ground, each feather tipped with white; the mottling should be even throughout, with no tendency to lacing. The eyes, face, comb, and wattles should be red, and the ear lobes white. The color of the beak should be yellow, with the upper mandible shaded with black, and that of the shanks and toes should be yellow, or yellow shaded or mottled with black. There are no standard weights for Anconas.

CLASS IV—ENGLISH.

DORKINGS.

The Dorking (fig. 13) is one of the oldest of domestic fowls. There are no definite records to show when it first lived in England, or whence it came, but the supposition is that it was carried to England by the Romans, who evidently possessed chickens of similar characteristics.

The chief distinctive mark of the breed is the presence of a fifth or supernumerary toe, springing behind, a little above the foot and below the spur. It has been sought by various writers to deprive Dorking (a town in the County of Surrey, about 20 miles south of London) of the honor of being the original and principal rearing place of this justly celebrated breed, and it is asserted that the true Dorking fowls are raised at Horsham, Cuckfield, and other places in the Weald of Surrey, and that the ancient and superior white fowls from Dorking are a degenerated race compared with the improved Sussex breed. The feature in which this bird is most popular is its table qualities. The flesh is white and very delicate in texture. It is claimed by many to equal if not to excel the French varieties. The broad, deep, and projecting breast of the Dorking admirably fits

it for table purposes, and in this respect it is conceded by some to rival the Indian Games. As layers the Dorkings are considered rather indifferent, but they are careful sitters and attentive mothers.

There are three varieties of Dorkings—the White, Silver Gray, and Colored. The White Dorking is really the purest blooded of the three, as for years this was the only variety which produced invariably the fifth toe, although the Colored and Silver Gray varieties seldom fail to breed this peculiarity. In color the White Dorking is of clear, unblemished white. The comb and wattles are a bright red; the shanks and toes are white.

Silver Gray Dorkings are beautiful in plumage. The head of the cock is silvery white; hackle, silvery white and as free from stripes as possible; comb, face, ear lobes, and wattles, bright red; beak, white, streaked with horn; eye, bright red; breast, thigh, and under

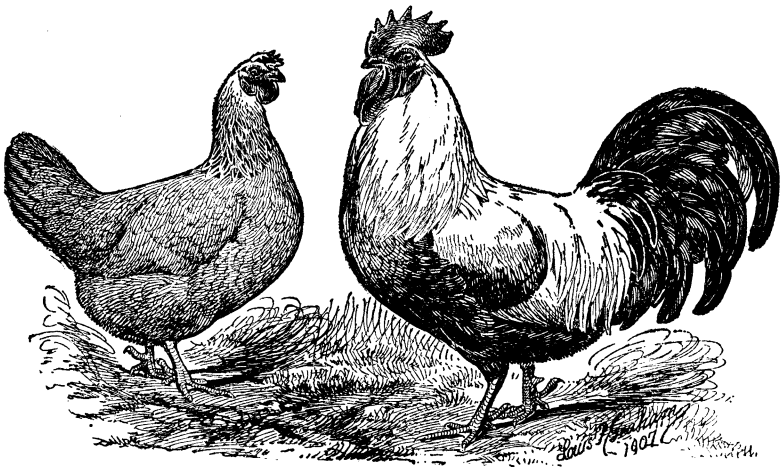


FIG. 13.—Pair of Silver Gray Dorkings.

parts, black; back, saddle, and wing bows, pure silvery white; wing coverts, greenish black; primaries, black, edged with white; secondaries, black on upper web, white on lower web, with a black spot at the end of each feather; tail, greenish glossy black; shanks, feet, and toe nails, white. The eye, beak, comb, face, wattles, shanks, feet, and toe nails of the hen are the same as in the cock; head, silvery white; hackle, silvery white, clearly striped with black; breast, salmon red, shading off to gray in the lower parts; back, wing bows, and wing coverts, bright silver gray, with minute pencilings of dark gray on each feather, the shafts of the feathers being white; primaries, upper web dark slate, lower web slaty gray; secondaries, same as primaries; tail, dark, penciled with gray on outside and dark slate on inside.

Colored Dorkings differ from the others only in color, the general color of the male being black and straw color, while the female is marked with black and mixed gray, with breast of dark salmon edged with black. The combs of Dorkings differ in the three varieties; the White has a rose comb, Silver Grays and Colored have single combs.

The standard weights for Dorkings differ. The weights for Whites are: Cocks, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, 5 pounds. For Silver Grays: Cocks, 8 pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. For the Colored: Cocks, 9 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; pullets, 6 pounds.

REDCAPS.

Redcaps are an old breed, mention of them being made by some of the old authors. The large comb stands in their way as popular birds, and unless it is square and even it makes a miserable sight.

Redcaps mature early and are good layers. For market purposes they are good, the size and quality of flesh being recommendations for popular favor. They are reputed to be nonsitters, though occasionally they are known to sit and hatch broods.

The comb is rose, large, not overhanging the eyes, square in front, and uniform on each side. It must be firm and even upon the head, without inclining to one side, the top covered with small points, terminating at the rear in a well-developed, straight spike, and bright red in color. Wattles and ear lobes are also bright red. In plumage the male and the female are red, brown, and black; the head of the male is red, with blue-black hackle, each feather edged with red; the back is red and black, and the breast purplish black.

The head plumage of the female is brown in color; the neck black, each feather laced with golden red; the back brown and black, and the breast the same color. The shanks and toes are slate-colored or leaden blue.

The standard weight of cocks is $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cockerels, 6 pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

ORPINGTONS.

These fowls constitute our most recent importation of a breed from England. They were originated by William Cook, of Orpington, county of Kent, England. They are a good general-purpose fowl, being of good size and good layers of brown-shelled eggs.

There are ten distinct varieties of this breed—the Single-comb Buff, Single-comb Black, Single-comb White, Single-comb Spangled, Single-comb Diamond Jubilee, and the Rose-comb varieties of the same

colors. Of these ten varieties only the first three have at present gained admission to the American Standard of Perfection.

The standard Orpington (fig. 14) should have a medium-size single comb, perfectly straight and upright; the neck should be well arched and have an abundance of hackle feathers; the body should be long and broad, with a broad, deep breast and a long, broad back; the wings should be of medium size and nicely folded; the tail should be of medium length, fairly well spread, and carried at an angle of 45° from the horizontal in the male and at an angle of 40° from the horizontal in the female; the thighs and shanks should be rather short and stout, and the toes should be of medium length and straight. Shanks and toes should be perfectly free from any feathers or down. The skin should be white or pinkish white in color, and the face, comb, wattles, and ear lobes bright red.

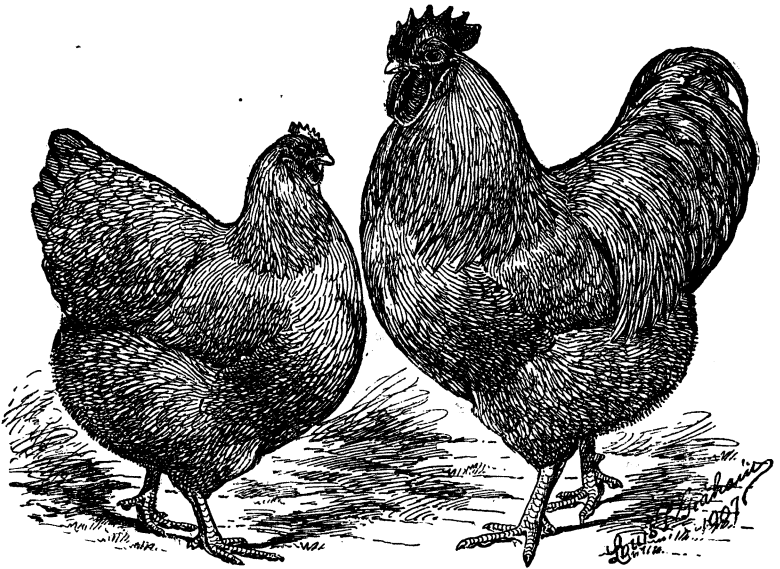


FIG. 14.—Pair of Single-comb Buff Orpingtons.

The color of the surface plumage of the Buff variety should be a rich golden buff throughout, the head, neck, hackle, back, wing bows, and saddle being richly glossed with a metallic luster. The beak, shanks, and toes should be white or pinkish white in color. The color of the surface plumage of the Black variety should be black or greenish black throughout. The beak should be dark horn, shading to a pinkish tint near the lower edge. The shanks and toes should be bluish black in color; web and bottoms of feet, pinkish white. The plumage of the White variety should be pure white throughout; the beak, shanks, and toes, white or pinkish white in color.

The standard weight of cocks is 10 pounds; hens, 8 pounds; cock-ereels, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, 7 pounds.

CLASS V—POLISH.

One of the oldest breeds of poultry is the Polish (fig. 15), its ancestry being traced as far back as the sixteenth century. Among the varieties mentioned in those early days was the "Woolly" fowl, similar to the silky fowl of to-day. Mention in history is also made of the "Frizzled" fowl, the "Persian" fowl, the "Turkish" fowl, and the "Crested" fowl. The latter is described as being a fowl with a lark's crest. Another variety is known as the "Patavinian" fowl, which is believed to be the progenitor of the Polish breed. The cock is described as exceedingly beautiful, being richly decorated with five colors, black, white, green, red, and ocher. The body is black, the neck covered with white feathers, and the wings and back partly

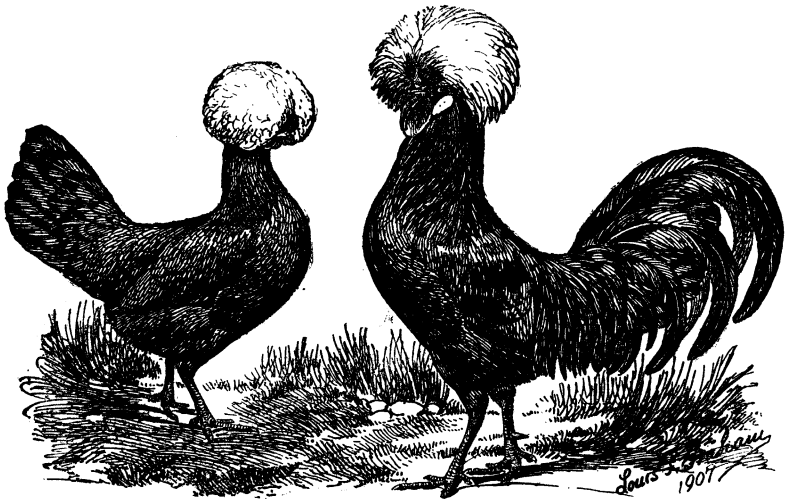


FIG. 15.—Pair of White-crested Black Polish.

black and partly green; the tail is the same, but the roots of the feathers are whitish, and some of the flight feathers are also white. The eyes are surrounded with red circles, the comb is very small, the bill and feet are yellow, and the head is adorned with a beautiful crest. In the hen there is no white except the white pellicle at the opening of the ears. She is altogether of a greenish-black color, with yellow feet and a very small comb slightly tinged with red.

The general characteristics of the Polish are those of small to medium sized fowls, larger than the Hamburgs; a full, round breast, carried well forward; the neck of the cock beautifully arched; a straight back, broad at the shoulders, and narrowing rapidly to the tail; large and closely folded wings; a large, well-expanded tail, which in the cock is furnished with an abundance of tail coverts and

sickle feathers; shanks of a blue or slaty-blue color in all varieties but the White-crested Black, in which they are of blue or dark leaden blue; and, above all, a large crest and a small V-shaped comb. The crest of the cock is composed of narrow feathers, something like those which form the hackle of the neck and saddle. They should rise well in front, so as not to obstruct the sight, and fall over the back and sides in a flowing, even mass. If they fall forward, as is sometimes the case, they both obstruct the sight and are liable to get wet when the bird drinks. Such a crest, also, is hollow in the center and loses much of its beauty. The crest of the hen should be large and globular in form and compact in character, with no sign of parting. The larger the crest the better, provided it is of good shape; but a close, compact, well-formed crest is to be preferred to one that is larger, but of loose texture and falling in all directions. The smaller the comb the better, and natural absence of comb is preferred.

Polish chickens are bred extensively in this country and by some are considered practical for general purposes; but, while some breeders may secure good results, the Polish is not to be fully recommended as a general-purpose fowl. They are considered more as fancy birds and are generally bred for pleasure and the showroom. Their large crests are against them, hindering their vision and causing them to become listless, inactive, and suspicious. Extra care must be given to be fairly successful in raising them, and their houses and coops must be kept absolutely dry; the least water in their crests is likely to result fatally to them.

They are fairly good layers of medium-sized eggs and are non-sitters. For table purposes they are considered good, their flesh being fine-grained, tender, and sweet.

Of the varieties of Polish, the White-crested Black is the most popular. The color of the plumage of this variety is a rich, glossy black throughout, with the exception of the crest, which is pure white; a narrow band of black feathers at the base of the crest in front is allowable, but the fewer the better. The shanks and toes are blue or dark leaden blue; comb and wattles are bright red, and ear lobes are white.

The Golden and Silver varieties are beautifully marked in plumage. In the Golden the feathers are marked with rich golden bay and laced with black. The feathers of the Silver are silvery white, instead of the golden bay, and are laced with black. The illustration (fig. 16) shows the general markings of the feathers. The White Polish is pure white throughout the plumage. The feathers of the Buff Laced should be of a rich buff color with a narrow white lacing.

There are two distinct subbreeds of Polish, the plain (nonbearded) and the bearded. The latter has a thick, full beard, running back of

the eye in a handsome curve, and in color corresponding with the balance of the plumage. The eight varieties of Polish are: White-crested Black, Bearded Golden, Bearded Silver, Bearded White, Buff

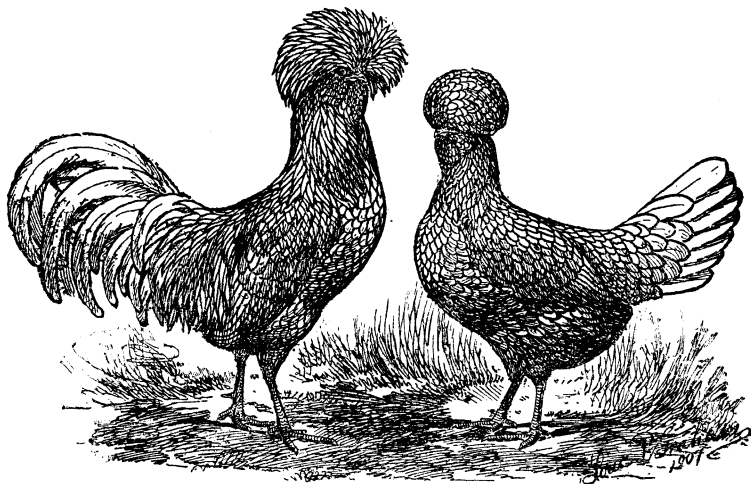


FIG. 16.—Pair of Bearded Silver Polish.

Laced, Nonbearded Golden, Nonbearded Silver, and Nonbearded White.

No standard weight is given for Polish; they are of medium size, about that of Leghorns.

CLASS VI—DUTCH.

HAMBURGS.

Hamburgs (fig. 17) are in the front rank of egg producers. There are six varieties of this breed: The Golden-spangled, Silver-spangled, Golden-penciled, Silver-penciled, Black, and White. They are all very pretty birds, and seldom fail to prove attractive and profitable to the average breeder and fancier. Hamburgs are economical fowls to keep; besides being light eaters and great foragers, they are prolific layers and nonsitters. The only thing against them is the smallness of their eggs. They lay a pretty, white-shelled egg, but smaller in size than those of the Leghorn. There are some which lay larger eggs than others, and by careful selection from year to year of the birds which lay the largest eggs this defect may be remedied and the size of the eggs improved.

The Silver-spangled Hamburg is perhaps the most beautiful as well as the most popular variety of the Hamburgs. Its proud carriage and graceful and symmetrical form command attention whenever seen. Breeders of Hamburgs universally adopt the following

as a standard for the breed: Comb, rose, square at front, tapering nicely into a spike, which inclines upward slightly; top of comb covered with small points, firmly and evenly set on the head; face, red; ear lobes, moderate size, round as possible, and clear white; shanks and toes, leaden blue; carriage, graceful; plumage, profuse. Cocks: Silver-spangled—color, clear, silvery-white ground, every feather tipped or spangled, the bars of the wing regular; neck, back, and saddle nicely spangled; Golden-spangled—color, bay and black; back, glossy reddish bay, spangled with greenish black; neck and saddle nicely striped. Hens: Silver-spangled—the white clear and silvery; the spangles large, black as possible, distinct and clear; Golden-spangled—rich reddish bay ground; clear spangles, large and distinct.

The feather markings of the penciled varieties differ greatly from those of the spangled, the latter being commonly called “moon-eyed,”

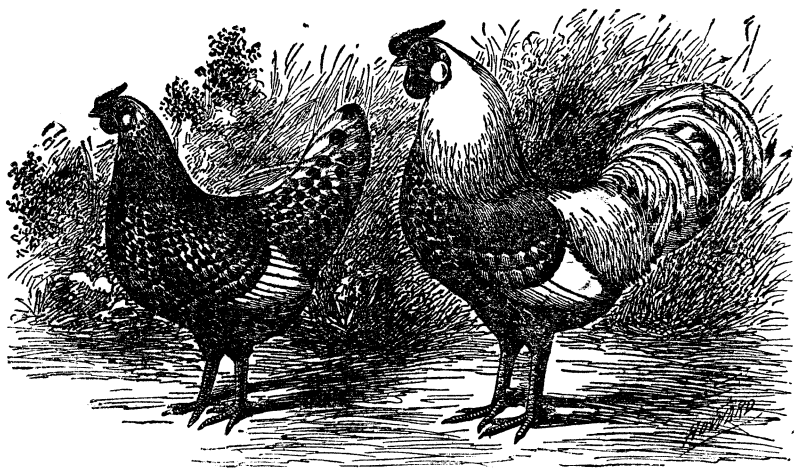


FIG. 17.—Pair Silver-spangled Hamburgs.

from the round or oval appearance of the spangles, while the markings of the penciled varieties are in parallel bars of reddish bay or black, or clear silvery white and black, as the case may be. White and Black Hamburgs are solid white or solid black in plumage.

No standard weight is given for Hamburgs.

CLASS VII—FRENCH.

HOUDANS.

The three varieties of poultry in the French class are the Houdans, Crevecœurs, and La Flèche. Of these the Houdans (fig. 18) are conceded to be the most popular and profitable, being bred to a great

extent throughout the entire country. They are hardy and prolific layers of large, white eggs. For table purposes they are among the best fowls. They have small bones and the flesh is tender and delicious. The chicks are sprightly and active and feather rapidly. They are nonsitters and light feeders. Like the Leghorns, they may be fed at a small cost as compared with some of the larger breeds. They are of medium size and of a mottled plumage, black and white intermixed, the black predominating. Houdans are a crested variety. The crest of the cock is large, well fitted upon the crown of the head, falling backward upon the neck, and composed of feathers similar in shape and texture to those of the hackle. The crest of the female is large, compact, and regular, inclining backward in an unbroken mass. The Houdan has a small V-shaped comb, which rests against

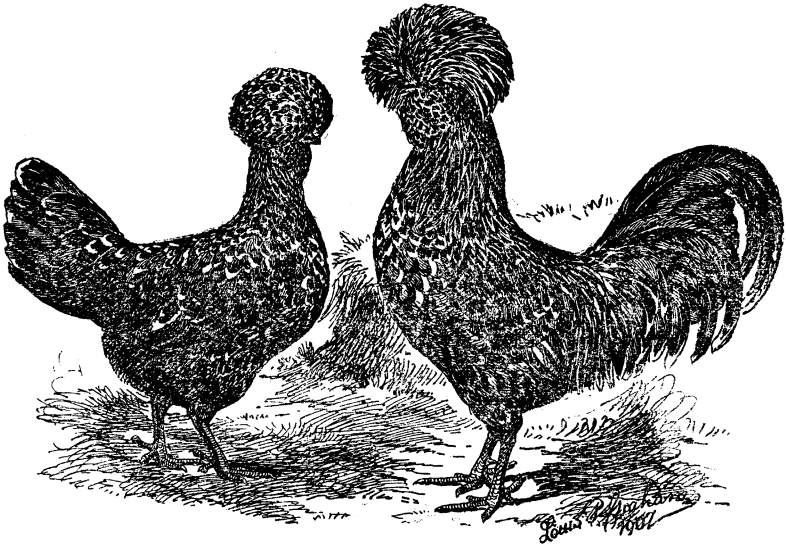


FIG. 18.—Pair of Houdans.

the front of the crest. A peculiarity of the breed is their having five toes, like the Dorkings; shanks and toes are of a pinkish-white color, mottled or shaded with lead color or black.

The standard weight of cocks is 7 pounds; hens, 6 pounds; cock-ereles, 6 pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

CREVECCEURS.

This variety is not so generally known in this country as the Houdans, but in France, their native country, they are bred extensively for market purposes. They are considered of superior quality for the table, their flesh being white and delicately flavored. They

are of gentle disposition and do well in confinement. They have weak constitutions and require extra care and attention. As layers they are only fair, and are nonsitters. They are a crested variety, have a leaf comb like the letter V in shape, and in plumage are a rich, glossy black throughout.

The standard weight of cocks is 8 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; pullets, 6 pounds.

LA FLÈCHE.

La Flèche fowls differ in character from the other two varieties of French poultry mentioned. Houdans and Crevecœurs are more compactly built than La Flèche, the latter being tall and rather gaunt looking, and in style and character denote the preponderance of Spanish blood. Their plumage is a rich, glossy black throughout. The comb is peculiar, being V-shaped, of moderate size, branching and antler-like, somewhat like two horns pointing upward. The birds are of extremely delicate constitution and difficult to raise. The flesh is more delicate and juicy than that of any variety except the Game. They are moderate layers of very large, white eggs, but are by no means so good as the Spanish in this respect; as table fowl they are superior, but do not mature early—not nearly so early as the Houdans or the Crevecœurs.

The standard weight of cocks is $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

CLASS VIII—GAMES AND GAME BANTAMS.

The Game is one of the most interesting breeds of domestic poultry. Its origin and history are seemingly linked with all topics concerning poultry and its origin. For a long time Games have been favorites in this country. They are noted for their vigor and courage, having formerly been bred for fighting. By careful selection in breeding for many generations they have been brought to a high state of perfection. The beauty of an exhibition Game is much praised in this and other countries and the pens are generally filled at the shows. They are sought after and courted by fanciers, and as ornamental fowls they have few equals in the number of their admirers. The practical qualities of the Game have never been demonstrated with accuracy, their tall figures standing in the way of popularity and general usefulness. It should not be understood that they are unprofitable to keep, but rather not a fowl for farm purposes. They are usually good layers and excellent table fowl, their meat being fine-grained, tender, and juicy. They are splendid sitters and mothers. Their tall, commanding, and striking figures are decided contrasts to those of other

poultry, and afford a diversion to admirers of fine poultry. The varieties are Black-breasted Red, Brown Red, Golden and Silver Duckwing, Red Pyle, White, Black, and Birchen.

BLACK-BREASTED RED GAMES.

The history of the Black-breasted Red Game dates from the most remote times. They always breed uniformly and invariably alike in color, this uniformity being also observed in the Bantams of this name. The color of the head of the cock is a bright orange; hackle and saddle, light orange; breast, body, and stern, black; shoulders, black; wing bows, red; coverts, black; tail feathers, sickles, and tail coverts, lustrous black; thighs, black; shanks and feet, willow. The head of the hen is golden brown; the hackle, light golden, the hackle feathers being striped with black down the center; the feathers of the body are ashy brown; the tail, black or dark brown, the upper feathers being penciled with light brown.

The head of the cock is long, and the neck slim and long; breast, broad; back, straight and sloping to the tail; body, hard and compact; wings, large; tail, small and closely folded, with few sickles and fine narrow hangers; thigh, long and well developed; shank, long and smooth; toes, long and straight. The hen is about the same shape as the cock, and the carriage of both is bold and upright.

The Black-breasted Red Game is an excellent table fowl and a moderate layer of medium-sized eggs of rich flavor. The chicks require much care, as their constitutions are weakened from too close breeding for ornamental purposes.

BROWN RED GAMES.

The Brown Red Game differs from the Black-breasted Red Game in the color of the head. The face is dark purple; beak, black; wattles, comb, and ear lobes, black or dark purple; head of cock, orange; hackle, lemon colored, with a dark stripe down the center of each feather; back, lemon; saddle, lemon, striped like hackle; breast, black, laced with lemon; shoulders, black; wing bows, lemon, and coverts glossy black; tail, lustrous black; shanks and feet, dark willow or nearly black.

GOLDEN AND SILVER DUCKWING GAMES.

The Golden and Silver Duckwing Games are similar in markings, the main difference being that the Silver Duckwing cock (fig. 19) is silvery white where the Golden Duckwing is golden or straw color. In both varieties the face, comb, wattles, and ear lobes are red; beak, horn; breast, tail, and thighs, black; shanks and feet, willow. In the Golden the head of the cock is straw color; back, golden; wing

bows, golden, the wing coverts forming a distinct black bar across the wing. These points, except the wing coverts, which are black, are white in the Silver Duckwing.

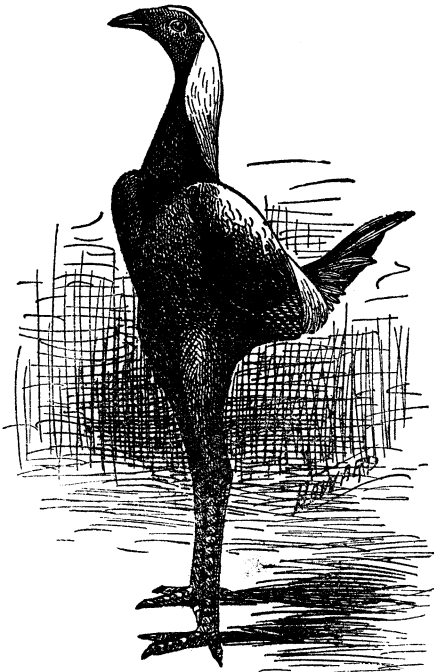


FIG. 19.—Silver Duckwing Game cockerel.

Shanks and feet of both cock and hen are yellow or willow—yellow preferred.

RED PYLE GAMES.

The plumage of the head and hackle of the Red Pyle Game cock varies from bright orange to light red; the back is red or crimson; breast, white; body, white; shoulders and wing fronts, white; wing bows, red or crimson; wing coverts, white, forming a distinct bar across the wing; tail and tail coverts white. The head of hen golden red; hackle, white, edged with gold; back, white; breast, salmon; wings, white; tail, white.

WHITE AND BLACK GAMES.

These two varieties differ only in color from the others of their breed. The plumage of the White Game is a pure, spotless white; beak, shanks, and feet, yellow; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, red. The Black Game is a lustrous black in plumage; beak, shanks, and feet, black; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, deep red.

BIRCHEN GAMES.

Birchen Games are silvery white and black; head and back are silvery white; hackle and saddle of cock are silvery white, with a narrow dark or black stripe in center of each hackle and saddle

feather; breast, black, each feather laced with silvery white; wing coverts, glossy black; tail and thighs, black; shanks and feet, dark willow or black; comb, wattles, and ear lobes, dark purple or black. The plumage of the hen is black, except that of the head, which is silvery white, and of the hackle, which is silvery white with a dark stripe down the center of each feather, and of the breast, the feathers of which are black, evenly laced with silvery white.

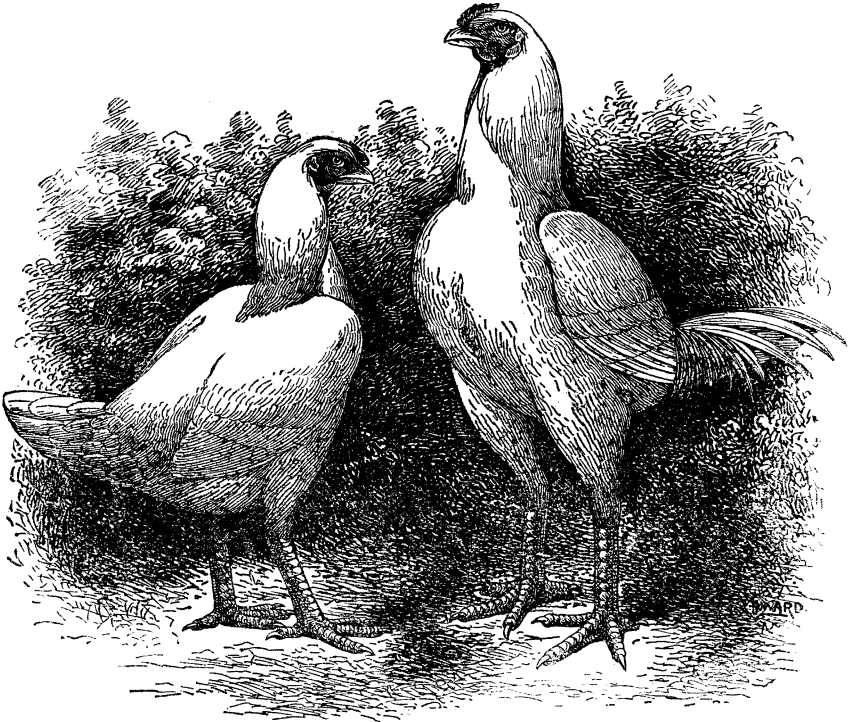


FIG. 20.—Pair of White Indian Games.

GAME BANTAMS.

Game Bantams are diminutive representatives of the Games. The color of plumage, markings, and shape must correspond with these features in the Game which bears its name, the diminutive size being the only distinguishing feature between the two. The cocks average about 22 ounces in weight, the hens 20 ounces.

CLASS IX—ORIENTAL GAMES AND BANTAMS.

CORNISH AND WHITE INDIAN GAMES.

The Indian Game (fig. 20) has many fine qualities to recommend it to the breeder, and for many years past has been a popular fowl. In

plumage the Cornish Indian male is green-black intermixed with red and bay. The plumage of the hen should be a combination of bay and black throughout.

The breast is very wide, round, and prominent, the thighs are well rounded, and thick and meaty next the body; the shanks are very stout, smoothly scaled, and yellow in color; the back toe should be almost flat on the ground; the tail close and hard, carried at slight elevation, and sickles narrow; wings tightly folded, the ends of the secondaries rounding off abruptly and resting close against the tail or just below it; eyes yellow, beak yellow, or yellow striped with horn color. The Indian Game is a beautiful bird, and its every movement bespeaks its high breeding.

The White variety is identical with the Cornish except that the plumage should be pure white.

The standard weight of cocks is 9 pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; pullets, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

BLACK SUMATRA GAMES.

Although a beautiful bird and possessing many fine points worthy of the consideration of the fancier and breeder, the Black Sumatra Game is little known. It is gentle of disposition and attentive to its young. There is considerable comment against the Sumatras on account of the long flowing tail and apparent lack of fighting qualities; but as to this those who have witnessed their defense of their mates and young differ. They may be slow in opening a conflict, but when occasion demands, no bird can show a greater amount of staying power than the Sumatras. In plumage they are a rich, greenish black throughout. The tail is long and drooping, with an abundance of long, flowing sickle feathers and coverts. This is a point which severs all connection with the Pit Game and places them in the front rank of the ornamental breeds.

MALAY GAMES.

The Malays (fig. 21) have never been popular in this country and are bred for exhibition only, not possessing qualities for practical purposes. They are of medium size, and in carriage are particularly upright and powerful looking. Their plumage is very close, and red or maroon and black. The body tapers from the broad shoulders to the tail, which droops almost in a straight line with the back. The thighs are long and powerful. A striking feature of the Malay is the head. It is long, the crown over the eyes being heavy and projecting, giving the bird a cruel and fierce expression; the neck is long and scanty of hackle; the skin of the throat is a bright red, and the scantiness of the plumage causes the

red to show distinctly. This is a characteristic of the breed. The wattles and ear lobes are slight in development; the shanks and toes are bright yellow. The Malays are large and hardy, and are used for crossing with other breeds to infuse vigor and size. In disposition they are reputed to be very savage, and in battle often literally tear their opponents to pieces.

The standard weight of cocks is 9 pounds; hens, 7 pounds; cockerels, 7 pounds; pullets, 5 pounds.

MALAY BANTAMS.

In shape and color the Black-breasted Red Malay Bantam should be the same as the standard size Malay.

The standard weight of cocks is 26 ounces; hens, 24 ounces; cockerels, 24 ounces; pullets, 22 ounces.

CLASS X—ORNAMENTAL BANTAMS.

SEBRIGHT BANTAMS.

Bantams are purely ornamental poultry, and are kept for pleasure exclusively, though some contend they are profitable for eggs and table.

This is hardly reasonable to suppose, as their diminutive size and small eggs would hardly pay for their keep other than for fancy purposes. The Golden and Silver (fig. 22) Sebright Bantams were originated in the early part of the last century by crossing a common Bantam with a Polish fowl and breeding the cross to a hen-feathered bantam. After many years of successful breeding beautiful birds have been produced which breed true to type.

The plumage of the bird is rich golden yellow in the Golden variety, and silvery white in the Silver variety. The feathers of each variety are distinctly laced with a narrow edging of black. The head is small and surmounted by a bright-red rose comb in the male and a purplish-red comb in the female; the neck is well arched and hen feathered; the back is short and free from saddle feathers; the

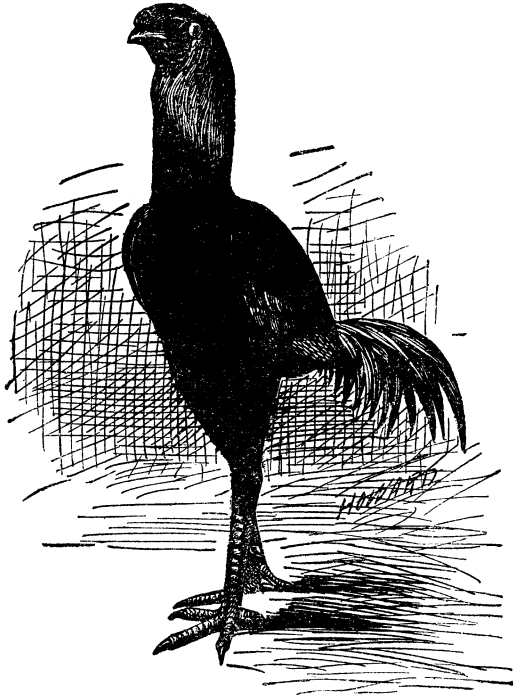


FIG. 21.—Malay Game cock.

breast is round and full and the body compact; the wings are large and carried low, but not so low as to conceal the hocks; the thighs are short, and the shanks and toes are slaty blue in color. The cocks weigh about 26 ounces, the hens about 22 ounces.

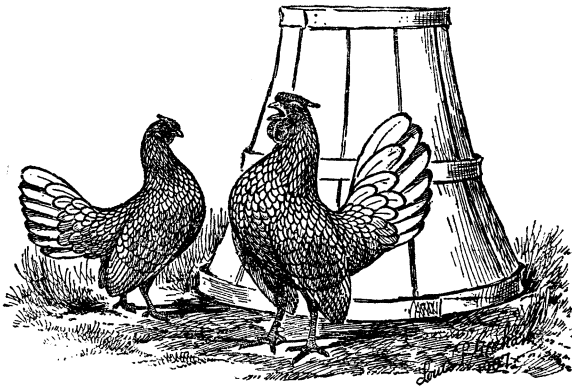


FIG. 22.—Pair of Silver Sebright Bantams.

rose comb, square in front, fitting firmly on the head and ending in a spike with a slight upward curve; flat, closely fitting ear lobes; broad, thin, and well-rounded wattles; neck small at the head, increasing in size as it approaches the shoulders, nicely arched, and carried well back; abundant hackle of good length, sweeping over the shoulders, with long and plentiful saddle feathers; full round breast, carried prominently forward; plump, compact, and symmetrical body; wings large, the points carried low, the secondaries slightly expanded; full expanded tail carried at an angle of 40° from the horizontal, and furnished with long curving sickles and coverts; short thighs, and short, clean, tapering shanks.

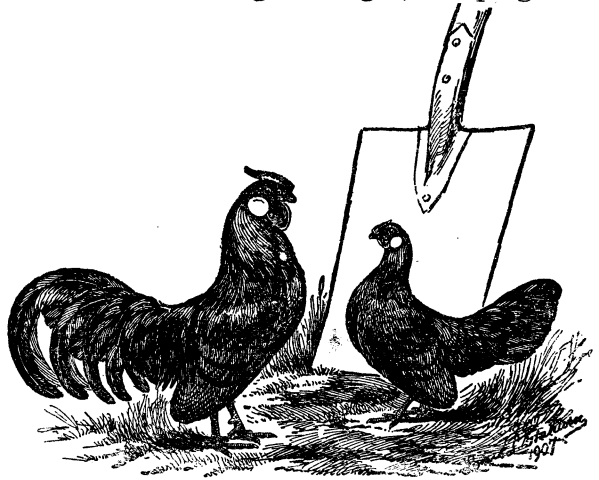


FIG. 23.—Pair of Rose-comb Black Bantams.

The head of the hen should be small and neatly rounded; eyes

bright and full; comb of the same character as the cock's, but smaller; flat, smooth ear lobes; small wattles; the neck should be short, tapering, and carried well back; the back short; the breast full and prominent; the body compact; wings large; tail full and expanded; thighs short, and shanks short and tapering.

The plumage of the Rose-comb Black Bantam is lustrous black, and of the White, pure white. The beak of the Black is black, or dark horn color; of the White, white. The ear lobes of both varieties are pure white. The shanks of the Black are dark, leaden blue, or black; of the White, white.

BOOTED WHITE BANTAMS.

Booted White Bantams are distinguished, as their name implies, by heavily feathered or booted shanks. They have small heads and medium - sized single combs.

The hackle feathers are long and partly cover the shoulders; the wings are large and slightly drooping; the tail is upright, with long sickles and abundant coverts; thighs long, and covered with long, stiff feathers or vulture hocks, which nearly reach the ground; toes and shanks white. The plumage is pure and white.

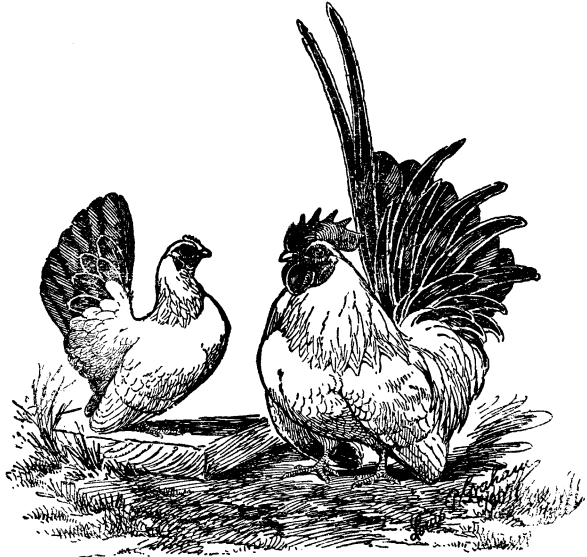


FIG. 24.—Pair of Black-tailed Japanese Bantams.

BRAHMA BANTAMS.

Brahma Bantams should conform in miniature in both color and shape to the larger Brahmas.

Standard weight of cocks is 30 ounces; hens, 26 ounces; cockerels, 26 ounces; pullets, 24 ounces.

COCHIN BANTAMS.

Cochin Bantams are in both color and shape the same as their larger ancestors. The cock weighs about 30 ounces, the hen 26 ounces.

JAPANESE BANTAMS.

The striking beauty and peculiar-shaped tails of the Black-tailed Japanese Bantams (fig. 24) make them great favorites and place them in the front rank of the Bantam class. They are white, excepting the tail and wings. The tail is black; the sickles and coverts are black, edged with white. The wings are large and long, with drooping points; the color of the primaries and secondaries is dark slate or black, edged with white. When the wing is folded it shows only white. The tail is expanded and carried in an upright position, almost touching the back of the head; sickles, long and slightly curved. The shanks are free from feathers and are yellow in color.

The White and Black Japanese Bantams are the same in size and shape as the Black-tailed Japanese. The beak, shanks, and toes of the White are yellow, and those of the Black are yellow, or yellow shaded with black. The color of the White is pure white; of the Black, a lustrous black.

POLISH BANTAMS.

Polish Bantams are of American origin, and appeared about 1872, produced by an accidental cross of a White Polish cock and a common hen. At first the chicks had small crests and the plumage was often disfigured by foul feathers, but under careful breeding the color has been established, so that foul feathers no longer appear and the crests have been nearly doubled in size. They were admitted to the standard in 1879-80, and since then they have been disseminated throughout the country, although perfect specimens are as yet comparatively rare.

CLASS XI—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Standard recognizes some varieties of poultry which are purely ornamental in character and purpose. They can not be considered as either prolific in egg production or superior for table purposes.

SILKIES.

Silkie are not extensively bred in this country, but in England are very popular. Their soft, webless feathers, when in prime condition, are exceedingly loose and fluffy, standing out from the body in all directions, giving the fowl the appearance of a large bird, which their weight does not justify. The cocks weigh from 2½ to 4 pounds, while the weight of the hens is from 2 to 2½ pounds.

The birds are of rather square, compact, Cochin build, crested, the cock's crest running back horizontally, while the hen's is globular; five toed; feather legged; comb, lumpy in appearance and dark purple in color; ear lobes, purple tinged with white; skin, violet, approaching black, the covering of the bones being of the same color;

shanks, dark leaden blue or black; plumage, white and downy. Silkies lay small eggs of a pale buff color, and lay 10 to 25 before wanting to sit. They make excellent mothers, and are very valuable to hatch and rear the tender little ones of the more delicate varieties.

SULTANS.

Sultans (fig. 25) were exported from Turkey into England about 1854, and did not reach America till some years later. They might with propriety be classed with the Polish, considering the characteristics which they possess. A compact crest surmounts the head and they are full bearded. Two small spikes constitute the comb. The neck hackle is abundant. The legs are heavily feathered and booted, and hocks vulturized. They possess a fifth toe. The tail is full and erect, and in the cock is abundantly furnished with sickles. While their beauty is their chief recommendation, they lay claim to modest usefulness, but only as layers, being too small for table fowls. They thrive well on a limited range or in confinement, and owing to their docility make excellent pets. The color of plumage is pure white throughout.



FIG. 25.—Sultan cock.

FRIZZLES.

Frizzles are the most grotesque members of the poultry family. They derive their name from the peculiar manner in which their feathers curve upward and backward at the ends, as if in defiance of nature's laws. This curving is most conspicuous in the hackle and saddle feathers. As these birds vary in color, there is no rule for judging their plumage except that it must have the peculiar upward curve. The color, however, should be solid; black, white, red, and bay being admissible, provided that the colors match when birds are shown in pairs, trios, or pens.

NOTE.

Any reader desiring a more detailed description of any of the varieties mentioned in this publication is referred to the American Standard of Perfection, published by the American Poultry Association.

In view of the numerous applications received by the Department of Agriculture for eggs and chickens of standard varieties as herein described, the reader is informed that these can not be supplied by the Department. Persons desiring either birds or eggs are referred to reliable dealers whose advertisements appear in poultry journals and other agricultural publications.